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Summary record of the 2nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 14 September 2001, at 3 p.m.

Chairman:	Mr. Han Seung-soo (President of the General Assembly)	(Republic of Korea)
later:	Mr. Xydas (Vice-Chairman)	(Greece)
later:	Mr. Balzan (Vice-Chairman)	(Malta)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Organization of the fifty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: memorandum by the Secretary-General (*continued*) (A/BUR/56/1 and Add.1)

Section III: Adoption of the agenda (*continued*)

Paragraphs 45 and 46 (Inclusion of items) (*continued*)

Item 188 (*continued*)

1. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to resume its consideration of item 188, entitled "Need to examine the exceptional international situation pertaining to the Republic of China on Taiwan, to ensure that the fundamental right of its 23 million people to participate in the work and activities of the United Nations is fully respected".

2. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Benmehidi (Algeria), Mr. Mangueira (Angola), Ms. Korneliouk (Belarus), Mr. Leslie (Belize), Mr. Tsering (Bhutan), Mr. Mourão (Brazil), Mr. Kafando (Burkina Faso), Mr. Nteturuye (Burundi), Mr. Laotegguelnodji (Chad), Mr. Streeter (Chile), Mr. Makayat-Safonesse (Congo), Mr. Moushoutas (Cyprus), Mr. Yahya (Djibouti), Mr. Richards (Dominica), Mr. Roshdy (Egypt), Mr. Meléndez-Barahona (El Salvador), Mr. Dangue Réwaka (Gabon), Mr. Stanislaus (Grenada), Mr. Camara (Guinea), Mr. Hamzehei (Islamic Republic of Iran), Mr. Aldouri (Iraq), Ms. Murnaghan (Ireland), Ms. Borzi Cornacchia (Italy), Mr. Smagulov (Kazakhstan), Mr. Al-Awdi (Kuwait), Mr. Kittikhoun (Lao People's Democratic Republic), Ms. Osode (Liberia), Ms. Thunyani (Malawi), Mr. Maïga (Mali), Mr. Relang (Marshall Islands), Mr. Gokool (Mauritius), Mr. Navarrete (Mexico), Mr. Arrouchi (Morocco), Mr. Tómas (Mozambique), Mr. Swe (Myanmar), Mr. Theron (Namibia), Mr. Osio (Nigeria), Mr. Ahmad (Pakistan), Mr. Silas (Palau), Ms. Morgan-Moss (Panama), Mr. Botnaru (Republic of Moldova), Mr. Richardson (Saint Kitts and Nevis), Ms. Joseph (Saint Lucia), Ms. Ferriai (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), Mr. Fall (Senegal), Mr. Manele (Solomon Islands), Mr. Gómez-Acebo (Spain), Mr. Atieh (Syrian Arab Republic), Mr. Ismoilov (Tajikistan), Mr. Tekaya (Tunisia), Mr. Enelesopoaga (Tuvalu), Mr. Krokhmal (Ukraine), Mr. Mwakawago (United Republic of Tanzania), Mr. Ibragimov (Uzbekistan), Mr. Alcalay (Venezuela), Mr. Mubarez (Yemen), Mr. Musambachime (Zambia) and Mr. Muchetwa (Zimbabwe) took places at the Committee table.*

3. **Mr. Stanislaus** (Grenada) said that the Chinese people on the mainland and on Taiwan had a common history and ancestry and a shared culture. However, the claim that the Republic of China on Taiwan was a province of the People's Republic of China defied history, logic and reality. The Republic of China on Taiwan had been a founding member of the United Nations in 1945, a member of the Security Council and the General Assembly and had represented all of China until 1971, when, as a result of tactics of cold war diplomacy, its seat had been unjustly taken away. His delegation was pleading for redress and requesting respect for the fundamental right of the 23 million people of Taiwan to participate in the work of the international community.

4. The Republic of China on Taiwan had become a democratic country with its own political, social and economic institutions. No one was suggesting that the People's Republic of China should be removed from the United Nations; rather, the two countries should continue to co-exist, as they had done for the past 31 years. They should return to high-level dialogue on areas where they could unite, for example, trade, cultural exchange and tourism.

5. **Mr. Relang** (Marshall Islands) said that his delegation supported the inclusion of the item in the agenda. It did not understand how Taiwan, which was a successful and responsible member of the international community, a founding member of the Organization, and a contributor to the development of many other countries, could be kept outside the gates of the world's paramount international organization.

6. **Mr. Fall** (Senegal) said that his delegation joined with others in supporting the inclusion of the item. In its view, the Republic of China on Taiwan was a State in the fullest sense of international law. It should be allowed to return, as it fulfilled all the conditions imposed under the Charter. Numbering among the major world economies, Taiwan had made a significant contribution to development funds and projects throughout its own region and the world.

7. The United Nations had received divided nations, for example Germany, Yemen and currently Korea, among its membership in the past. The admission of the Republic of China on Taiwan to the United Nations

should, with the support of the international community, ease tensions on both sides of the Taiwan Strait, ensure peace and stability in the South-East Asian region and enhance collective security in a globalized world. In turn, through its experience, technological know-how and capital, Taiwan would have much to contribute to the United Nations and its specialized agencies, funds and programmes.

8. **Mr. Laotegguelnodji** (Chad) said that the Republic of China on Taiwan and the People's Republic of China had co-existed for many years, each Government exercising sovereignty in its own territory. In the light of that reality, the United Nations must see that justice was done for the 23 million people who were currently excluded from all United Nations initiatives by providing representation for the Republic of China on Taiwan. The only way to ensure that outcome was to include the item in the agenda of the fifty-sixth session.

9. **Ms. Ferriai** (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) said that her delegation favoured inclusion of the item. Her Government had maintained diplomatic relations with the Republic of China on Taiwan for 20 years, and its support for Taiwan did not diminish its esteem for the People's Republic of China.

10. The Republic of China on Taiwan had an impressive record of political and economic development, and the United Nations could not afford to exclude from its membership a country with such a high level of achievement. The United Nations could never be whole or complete until Taiwan was admitted to membership.

11. **Mr. Enelesopoaga** (Tuvalu) said it was ironic that, despite a continuing record of democracy and good governance which had culminated in democratic elections a year earlier, the Republic of China on Taiwan was still excluded from membership in the United Nations and its agencies. It was also disappointing that no real effort had been made to resolve the issue. His delegation favoured inclusion of the item and hoped that the United Nations could be used as a framework for collaboration between the countries on the two sides of the Taiwan Strait in order to resolve the issue.

12. **Ms. Osode** (Liberia) said that the General Committee was considering the question of the inclusion of the item regarding the Republic of China on Taiwan for the sixth consecutive year, and her delegation hoped that the call for justice and equality for those 23 million people would no longer be ignored. The goodwill gestures made by the Republic of China on Taiwan, coupled with the ongoing reforms in the People's Republic of China, augured well for the pursuit of the ultimate goal of reconciliation and reunification between those two countries. The United Nations must try to narrow the political divide between them, and, pending the achievement of the ultimate goal of reunification, the Republic of China on Taiwan should be allowed to participate in the work of the Organization. Finally, her delegation suggested the establishment of an ad hoc committee to consider the relevant issues and come to some resolution.

13. **Mr. Moushoutas** (Cyprus) said that his delegation was not in favour of the inclusion of the proposed agenda item because Cyprus had always supported the principles of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of States, as well as the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI).

14. **Mr. Leslie** (Belize) said that the Republic of China on Taiwan, with its democratic Government and defined territory, continued to champion the founding principles of the United Nations, despite its exclusion from the Organization. He urged the international community to heed the claims of 23 million people who clamoured to be heard. If it did not, the United Nations could not purport to represent the whole world. Item 188 ought to be included in the agenda, in the interests of universality.

15. *Mr. Xydas (Greece), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

16. **Mr. Arrouchi** (Morocco) opposed the inclusion of the agenda item. The matter had already been settled under General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). In the light of his country's support for the principles of territorial integrity and national unity, and in the absence of any new elements, the matter should not be reconsidered.

17. **Mr. Kafando** (Burkina Faso) said that the Republic of China on Taiwan was restricted to the margins of international life, unable to participate in the activities of the United Nations, of which it was a founding member. It had all the characteristics of a sovereign State, contributed to the global economy and had been deemed worthy to be a member of the World Trade Organization. In championing its cause, his

delegation was by no means opposed to any other country, nor was it interfering in other countries' internal affairs; it merely sought justice. The General Assembly should establish a working group with a mandate to consider the issue and to recommend appropriate solutions. Closer ties between the parties with increased trade and investment, were also desirable. He recalled that the United Nations Millennium Declaration had called for cooperation, solidarity and fraternity among States and peoples. The General Assembly should assist that process by including the proposed agenda item.

18. **Mr. Silas** (Palau) said that the Republic of China on Taiwan deserved a seat in the United Nations, in view of its promotion of global peace and prosperity and its generosity with humanitarian, financial and technical assistance which contributed greatly to the world's social, political and economic stability. If that alone were not enough, the 23 million inhabitants of the country, with their democratic Government, had the fundamental right, under Article 4 of the Charter of the United Nations, to participate in the work of the Organization. Exclusion was, indeed, counter to the principles of the Charter. Item 188 should be included in the agenda.

19. **Mr. Loizada** (Paraguay), after drawing attention to the correction contained in document A/56/193/Add.2, said that his delegation had recently sent the Secretary-General a letter for distribution, setting out its views. Although the issue should be settled by the Republic of China on Taiwan and the People's Republic of China through dialogue, in a spirit of reconciliation, which could lead to a just and equitable agreement, the United Nations could not, under its Charter, shirk its duty to examine the issue, to which it could make a most important contribution. The proposed item should be included in the agenda.

20. **Mr. Meléndez-Barahona** (El Salvador) said that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had been adopted in the context of the cold war. It had not, however, resolved the question of the representation and participation of the Republic of China on Taiwan in the structure of the United Nations, even though many new nations had been admitted. The Republic, a founding member of the Organization, merely wished to exercise its rights and resume the position denied it over the past three decades.

21. The exclusion of the Republic of China was of a political rather than a legal nature. It was, however, clear from the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that the Republic had the right to be represented within the United Nations. His delegation would therefore support the inclusion of agenda item 188, until the differences existing between the parties on either side of the Taiwan Strait had been peacefully resolved.

22. **Ms. Joseph** (Saint Lucia) said that her delegation supported the "one-China" policy on both political and moral grounds. The policy had been almost unanimously supported within the General Assembly, as indicated by the number of times proposals to the contrary had been rejected. She urged the two sides to work towards unity rather than perpetuating the existing hostility. In the wider interests of prosperity and security, they should rediscover the bonds of brotherhood. The proposed agenda item should be rejected.

23. **Ms. Morgan-Moss** (Panama) said that the initiative to include the issue in the agenda should not be regarded as seeking to deny the People's Republic of China its seat in the United Nations or to interfere in the private debate of the Chinese people. The aim was simply to reconsider the situation in a changed world.

24. A number of States had made bilateral and multilateral agreements with the Republic of China on Taiwan on such issues as development finance or the fight against money-laundering. The Republic had signed many international human rights agreements and continued to observe their provisions. The two sides should work to eliminate their differences, in accordance with the democratic and humanitarian practices that were the foundation of civilized coexistence. Meanwhile, the 23 million people of the Republic of China on Taiwan should have the benefit of participation in the United Nations, which could, indeed, help in the work of reconciliation, as it had in Germany and continued to do in Korea. It was imperative that Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations should be applied.

25. **Ms. Thunyani** (Malawi) said that the 23 million people of the Republic of China on Taiwan, a peace-loving member of the international community, sought dignity, which had become a universally accepted human right. Yet they were excluded not only from the United Nations and its agencies but from nearly every

intergovernmental organization. The United Nations was committed, under its Charter, to developing friendly relations among nations on the basis of equal rights and self-determination and to achieving international cooperation. Relations between the countries on either side of the Taiwan Strait remained strained; there was, however, reason to hope that they could erase decades of hostility and engender lasting reconciliation. The United Nations could — and, indeed, must — serve as a forum for such reconciliation. The question of Taiwan's readmission to the United Nations should therefore be seriously considered.

26. **Mr. Manele** (Solomon Islands) said that the free and democratic Republic of China on Taiwan, which was home to 23 million people, had been excluded not only from the United Nations but also from nearly every other intergovernmental organization, even though it abided by international standards and obligations. That exclusion was unjust. To argue that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had solved the issue of Chinese representation once and for all was a denial of current realities. The Republic of China had, over the past 50 years, developed its own political system, social values and foreign relations. Its democratically elected Government had complete jurisdiction over its people and was the sole legitimate entity that could represent the interests of its people in the United Nations. He did not, however, mean to call into question the membership of the People's Republic of China.

27. The exclusion of the Republic of China was a contradiction of the Charter of the United Nations, the principles and values of which the Republic of China continued to incorporate in its domestic legislation. It had endorsed the two major international human rights covenants, was currently drafting a basic law on the guarantee of human rights and had shared with many countries the benefits of its outstanding achievements in economic development, agriculture, global trade and information and communications technology. It had also played an active role in humanitarian crises, assisting countries that had suffered from natural disasters, including some that spoke against its efforts to join the United Nations system.

28. The United Nations should enable the Republic of China on Taiwan to join the international community in overcoming the ills facing humanity. Membership of the United Nations would facilitate dialogue between the Republic and the People's Republic of China and provide the basis for lasting reconciliation. Parity and mutual respect, through the United Nations, must be the foundation for trust and confidence.

29. **Mr. Mwakawago** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that there was no compelling reason to undermine the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), particularly at a time when the call for respect for international law was being heard loud and clear. The people of China were capable of handling their own internal problems.

30. **Mr. Ismoilov** (Tajikistan) said that his delegation's support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and international legal status of the People's Republic of China, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the bilateral agreements between the two States, remained unchanged. There was only one China, of which Taiwan was an integral part, and the Government of the People's Republic of China was its sole legitimate representative. The issue had been settled by the General Assembly in its resolution 2758 (XXVI) and there was no need to revisit the matter. His delegation could not therefore support the inclusion of item 188 in the agenda.

31. **Mr. Aldouri** (Iraq) said he regretted that yet another attempt had been made to include the proposed item in the agenda. It was clear that, as in the past, an overwhelming majority of Member States endorsed the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). Progress in the economic, financial or social sphere did not give a province the right to secession, nor did distance from the mother country confer a right to sovereignty or membership in the United Nations. It was dangerous to encourage such a trend, which could have an impact on the Organization and on the international community as a whole. He therefore joined those who opposed the inclusion of item 188 in the agenda of the fifty-sixth, or any subsequent, session of the General Assembly.

32. **Mr. Krokhmal** (Ukraine) said that the Government of the People's Republic of China was the sole representative of China and that Taiwan was an integral part of China. The question of representation had been resolved by the General Assembly's adoption of its resolution 2758 (XXVI). His delegation opposed the inclusion of the proposed agenda item.

33. **Mr. Sevilla Somoza** (Nicaragua) said that the Republic of China on Taiwan met the criteria for

statehood established under international law and maintained diplomatic relations with more than 30 nations. It had the world's seventeenth largest economy and a population of over 23 million; moreover, in its most recent democratic elections, an opposition candidate had been elected President for the first time in the island's 50-year history. Taiwan was active in its cooperation with many developing countries and in the humanitarian assistance activities of the major international organizations. Its Government respected the international norms of human rights and had recently ratified the International Covenant on Economic and Social Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

34. It was therefore unjust to deny it membership in the United Nations for reasons that dated from the cold war and were no longer valid. By granting Member status to the Republic of China on Taiwan, the United Nations would foster dialogue between the parties on both sides of the Taiwan Strait with a view to a peaceful, civilized solution to the conflict. He therefore supported the proposal to establish a working group to consider the matter in depth.

35. **Mr. Atieh** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had been adopted by a large majority. The inclusion of item 188 in the agenda would therefore be contrary to practice and would not promote the goals shared by all its Members.

36. **Mr. Navarrete** (Mexico) said that his delegation supported the sovereignty and territorial integrity of China and that the inclusion of the proposed item would be incompatible with the Organization's interests. There were no grounds for questioning the validity of resolution 2758 (XXVI), and consequently the proposed item should not be included in the agenda.

37. **Mr. Van Schalkwyk** (South Africa) said that on 1 January 1998, South Africa had established full diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China and had ended its official relations with the Republic of China on Taiwan, thereby giving notice that it supported the "one-China" principle. The issue of Taiwan was an internal matter that should be resolved by the Chinese people themselves. His delegation could not support the inclusion of the proposed item.

38. **Mr. Gokool** (Mauritius) said that there was only one China and that the Government of the People's Republic of China was the sole legal Government of all of China. The issue of China's representation in the United Nations had been settled once and for all with the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). Taiwan was not eligible to participate in the work of the United Nations, including its specialized agencies, under any name whatsoever. His delegation was therefore opposed to the inclusion of the proposed item.

39. **Mr. Hasmy** (Malaysia) said that the issue of China's representation to the United Nations had been resolved once and for all with the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). His delegation could not support the inclusion of item 188 in the agenda.

40. **Mr. Hamzehei** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that under General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China were the only lawful representatives of China to the United Nations. His Government endorsed the "one-China" principle and supported China's goal of national reunification. He was therefore opposed to inclusion of the proposed item.

41. **Mr. Swe** (Myanmar) said that his Government had recognized the People's Republic of China since the latter's inception in 1949. There was only one China, and Taiwan was an integral part of China. The General Assembly had resolved the issue of China's representation in the United Nations with the adoption of its resolution 2758 (XXVI). The question was an internal affair of China. His delegation therefore strongly opposed the inclusion of the item.

42. **Mr. Mourão** (Brazil) said that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had definitely settled the issue of the representation of China in the United Nations. His delegation therefore rejected the inclusion of the proposed item.

43. **Mr. Dangue Réwaka** (Gabon) reiterated his Government's annual opposition to inclusion of the proposed item in the agenda of the General Assembly; such inclusion would be contrary to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) and could only further complicate a problem that was widely recognized as territorial in nature.

44. **Mr. Gómez-Acebo** (Spain) said that the question of China's representation in the United Nations had been resolved by previous resolutions of the General Assembly, including resolution 2758 (XXVI). The proposal should therefore be rejected.

45. **Mr. Florent** (France) said that his position was based on the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). As in previous years, his delegation opposed the inclusion of the proposed agenda item. Attention should focus on the promotion of peaceful dialogue between the parties on either side of the Taiwan Strait.

46. **Ms. Murnaghan** (Ireland) said that her Government supported the "one-China" principle and considered that the issue of representation had been settled by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). Her delegation could not support the inclusion of the proposed item.

47. **Mr. Roshdy** (Egypt) said that Egypt had been the first Arab, African or Middle Eastern State to recognize the People's Republic of China, which was the sole legitimate representative of the Chinese people. The issue had been resolved 30 years previously; thus, his delegation could not support the inclusion of the proposed item.

48. **Mr. Smagulov** (Kazakhstan) said that his Government fully supported the efforts of the People's Republic of China to defend its safety and territorial integrity. The Government of the People's Republic of China was the only legitimate government of China, and Taiwan was an integral part thereof. The question of Taiwan was an internal affair to be settled by the Government and people of China. The issue of China's representation in the United Nations had been resolved by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI).

49. **Mr. Eldon** (United Kingdom) said that his delegation's position was clear and unchanged. He welcomed the advent of the democratic process on Taiwan and looked to the parties on both sides of the Taiwan Strait to resolve their differences peacefully. The proposal should therefore be rejected.

50. **Mr. Ibragimov** (Uzbekistan) said that his Government was committed to the letter, spirit and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) and was firmly convinced that the People's Republic of China was the only lawful representative of China to the United Nations. His delegation therefore opposed the inclusion of the proposed agenda item.

51. **Mr. Al-Awdi** (Kuwait) said that the issue of Taiwan's membership in the United Nations had been decided by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). Any attempt to include item 188 in the agenda of the General Assembly would contravene that resolution and would constitute a violation of the territorial integrity of China and interference in its internal affairs. There was only one China, one Chinese Government and one Chinese people. The proposed agenda item should therefore be rejected.

52. **Ms. Borzi Cornacchia** (Italy) said that by adopting its resolution 2758 (XXVI), the General Assembly had recognized the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China as the only lawful representatives of China to the United Nations. In accordance with its respect for the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity, her Government believed that the People's Republic of China should seek a solution to the problem. She therefore opposed the inclusion of the proposed agenda item.

53. **Mr. Mangueira** (Angola) said that the principle of States' unity and integrity, enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, must be strongly defended in the case of China, as with any other country. His Government firmly believed that Taiwan was a part of China and that China was the legal representative of the Chinese people to the United Nations. He therefore rejected the inclusion of the proposed item.

54. **Mr. Streeter** (Chile) said that the issue had been settled in 1971, when resolution 2758 (XXVI) had been adopted. His Government recognized the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations and was therefore opposed to the inclusion of the item.

55. **Mr. Benmehidi** (Algeria) said that he associated himself with those opposed to the inclusion of the proposed item.

56. **Mr. Ouch Borith** (Cambodia) said that in 1971, the General Assembly had adopted its resolution 2758 (XXVI) by an overwhelming majority, thereby recognizing the People's Republic of China as the legitimate representative of China to the United Nations and resolving the issue once and for all. His

Government had always supported the "one-China" principle and considered that the question of Taiwan was an internal matter for the People's Republic of China to settle. His delegation was strongly opposed to the inclusion of the proposed item.

57. **Mr. Musambachime** (Zambia) said that there was only one China and that Taiwan was an integral part of Chinese territory. Thus, the Government of the People's Republic of China was the only legitimate Government recognized by his delegation. By adopting its resolution 2758 (XXVI), the General Assembly had reaffirmed that the Government of the People's Republic of China was the sole representative of China to the United Nations. He therefore opposed the inclusion of item 188 in the agenda.

58. **Mr. Estévez-López** (Guatemala) said that his country, which maintained full diplomatic, commercial and cultural relations with the Republic of China on Taiwan, valued those relations and admired the progress achieved in Taiwan in all aspects, especially in the economic area. Owing to its concern about the situation of the 23 million inhabitants of Taiwan, whose aspirations for representation in multilateral bodies had not been met, Guatemala had supported the admission to the World Trade Organization of both the People's Republic of China and the Republic of China on Taiwan. His Government therefore understood the logic behind the initiative under consideration. At the same time, it was committed to the objective of China's reunification. In that regard, it reaffirmed its policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of other States and wholehearted support for the peaceful settlement of disputes. It was to be hoped that the ongoing conversations between the Republic of China on Taiwan and the People's Republic of China would resolve the existing differences between the two parties. If the United Nations could in any way facilitate that process, his delegation would support the corresponding decisions.

59. **Mr. Theron** (Namibia) said that his country believed in the "one-China" principle and had consistently held the view that Taiwan was an integral part of the People's Republic of China. Moreover, that position had been made clear by the General Assembly in its resolution 2758 (XXVI). Therefore, Namibia opposed the inclusion of item 188 in the agenda.

60. **Mr. Balzan** (Malta) said that the General Assembly had already expressed itself comprehensively on the matter by adopting resolution 2758 (XXVI). Moreover, the measures being suggested by the proposed agenda item might well prove detrimental rather than conducive to reaching an amicable solution to the question of Taiwan within the "one-China" policy, which Malta had consistently supported. It continued to believe that respect for the "one-China" policy must form the basis of any action on the matter. Therefore, his delegation could not support the inclusion of the proposed agenda item.

61. **Mr. Regmi** (Nepal) said that Nepal had consistently pursued a "one-China" policy and recognized the People's Republic of China as the only China. Moreover, the overwhelming majority of United Nations Members had decided, through resolution 2758 (XXVI), that the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China were the only lawful representatives of China in the United Nations. His delegation therefore could not support the proposal.

62. **Mr. Erdős** (Hungary) said that, since his country had consistently maintained the "one-China" principle in its international activities, it was opposed to the inclusion of the proposed item.

63. *Mr. Balzan (Malta), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

64. **Mr. Makayat-Safonesse** (Congo) recalled his delegation's consistent position, based on the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), that the People's Republic of China was the sole representative of China to the United Nations. The issue of Taiwan was an internal matter that the People's Republic of China wished to settle through peaceful means. Any other approach to that issue would be an interference in the internal affairs of China, which had always played and continued to play a key role in the international community in favour of the strengthening of peace and security and in the promotion of international cooperation. His delegation therefore rejected the inclusion of the proposed item in the agenda.

65. **Ms. Korneliouk** (Belarus) said that her delegation was in favour of the territorial integrity of China and against any attempt to establish two Chinas. There was only one China and the People's Republic of China was its only legal Government. Belarus therefore could not support the inclusion of the item.

66. **Mr. Kamara** (Sierra Leone) said that Sierra Leone supported the "one-China" policy and China's call for national reunification. Taiwan was an integral part of China and China's internal affairs should be left to the Chinese Government. His delegation opposed the inclusion of the proposed agenda item.

67. **Mr. Tómas** (Mozambique) reiterated his delegation's support for the "one-China" policy. Taiwan was part of China, and the Government of the People's Republic of China was the lawful Government representing the whole of China. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had settled the issue of China's representation in the United Nations once and for all. His Government could not therefore support the inclusion of item 188 in the agenda.

68. **Ms. Tohtohodjaeva** (Kyrgyzstan) reiterated her delegation's support of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). Her delegation was opposed to the inclusion of the item.

69. **Mr. Osio** (Nigeria) said that his delegation recognized the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole representative of the Chinese people. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had resolved once and for all the issue of the representation of China in the United Nations, and Nigeria would continue to respect the collective wish of the Chinese people. In accordance with his country's "one-China" policy, he did not favour the inclusion of the item.

70. **Mr. Xydas** (Greece) said that his delegation had consistently held that the Government of the People's Republic of China was the legitimate representative of the Chinese people in the United Nations. Moreover, that issue had been decided by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). His delegation had not been convinced by the arguments put forward in favour of the proposed agenda item and therefore opposed its inclusion in the agenda.

71. **Mr. Tekaya** (Tunisia) reaffirmed his country's position that there was only one China and that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had settled the matter of the representation of that country in the United Nations.

72. **Mr. Maïga** (Mali) said that the issue of the representation of China in the United Nations had been settled by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). Since Taiwan was an inseparable part of the People's Republic of China and could not participate in the work of the United Nations, his delegation was against the inclusion of the proposed agenda item.

73. **Mr. Kittikhoun** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) reiterated his delegation's well-known position on the matter. There was only one China, of which Taiwan was an inseparable part, and the Government of the People's Republic of China was the only legitimate Government representing China. As General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had settled the question, his delegation could not support the inclusion of the item in the agenda.

74. **Mr. Richards** (Dominica) said that, as a sponsor, Dominica believed that the Republic of China on Taiwan had earned the right to participate in the work of the United Nations. The sponsors were merely calling for justice for the democratically elected government of a sovereign State and for the application of the principle of universality predicated on the concept of the sovereign equality of States enunciated under the Charter of the United Nations. It was a simple request for participation in the work of the United Nations by a State with impressive economic achievements and an exemplary human rights record, which had made laudable efforts in the field of national and economic assistance and technical cooperation.

75. The Republic of China on Taiwan was well positioned to make a significant contribution to the realization of the goals and ideals of the United Nations. Moreover, its participation in the work of the United Nations was not precluded by any Charter-related provision. Indeed, it met all the conditions of membership outlined in the Charter. The policy of exclusion against the Republic of China on Taiwan was discriminatory and exceptional in international affairs and should not be approved by the United Nations. The legitimate desires and aspirations of the citizens of the Republic of China on Taiwan to participate in the work of the United Nations deserved to be accorded consideration. Inclusion of the item in the agenda would be a first step in that process. It was the least that could be done to redress the injustice that had been done to the 23 million citizens of the Republic of China on Taiwan.

76. **Mr. Richardson** (Saint Kitts and Nevis) said that the divergence of views on the longstanding issue of the right of the Republic of China on Taiwan to participate in international dialogue demonstrated the true sense of democracy that governed discourse within

the United Nations. His delegation believed that the Chinese people possessed the collective wisdom needed to resolve their differences amicably. However, the United Nations could play a pivotal role in ensuring that the voices of the 23 million Taiwanese people were heard in regional and international forums.

77. The economic achievements of the Republic of China on Taiwan had proven its ability to make a meaningful contribution to the international community. At a time when the vulnerable economies of small developing States, such as his own, were being undermined by globalization, trade liberalization and the donor community's inconsistent contributions to the developing world, the Government of the Republic of China on Taiwan continued to demonstrate its unparalleled commitment to the spirit of cooperation. He was surprised that the international community had taken so long to recognize that the Republic of China on Taiwan, with its sound democracy and respect for human rights, had the political will and economic ability to take its rightful place in the family of nations, and he urged the Organization's leadership to promote that goal.

78. **Mr. Ileka** (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that his country, which had been the victim of armed aggression for over three years, considered the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence enshrined in the Charter to be of the utmost importance. In view of those principles and General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), his Government felt that the debate on the representation of the Chinese people was closed. It therefore rejected the inclusion of item 188 in the agenda.

79. **Mr. Nteturuye** (Burundi) said that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had fully recognized the People's Republic of China as the sole legal representative of the people of China in the Organization. His Government had always considered that there was only one China, of which Taiwan was an integral part. The international community should not succumb to the temptation of reopening a debate which had been long closed, since that would be extremely counter-productive. His delegation therefore opposed the inclusion of item 188 in the agenda.

80. **Mr. Yahya** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that the question of the representation of China in the United Nations had been settled once and for all by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). The representatives of the People's Republic of China were the sole legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations. Any attempt to reopen the issue would constitute interference in the internal affairs of the People's Republic of China. His delegation therefore opposed the inclusion of the item in the agenda.

81. **Mr. Mubarez** (Yemen) said that, since the matter had been settled by the United Nations 30 years ago when it had adopted General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), his delegation did not see any justification for re-opening the discussions.

82. **Mr. Gatilov** (Russian Federation) reiterated his delegation's unwavering support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of China. The Government of the People's Republic of China was the only legal Government of China, and Taiwan was an integral part of Chinese territory. General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which had settled the matter of China's representation at the United Nations, did not need to be revisited. His delegation therefore did not support the proposal for the inclusion of the item.

83. **Mr. Yahya** (Djibouti) said that Taiwan was an integral part of the People's Republic of China and that the debate about it was a waste of time and a distraction from the important issues that the General Assembly had to address. Moreover, resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, including resolution 2758 (XXVI) which had definitively settled the issue, must be respected. His delegation recognized the principle of a People's Republic of China which was one and indivisible and the sole legitimate representative of the Chinese people at the United Nations. It therefore rejected the proposal to include the item in the agenda.

84. **Mr. Tsering** (Bhutan) said that his delegation was against the inclusion of the item as it had been in the past.

85. **Mr. Muchetwa** (Zimbabwe) said that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had settled the matter of the representation of the Chinese people in the United Nations. The question of China's province of Taiwan was an internal matter for the Chinese people alone to resolve. Taking it up at the United Nations would be tantamount to meddling in the internal affairs of a sovereign State and fomenting division. Those who really wished to help the province of Taiwan should urge it to come to terms with the

authorities of the People's Republic of China in order to be able to participate fully in the activities of the United Nations under the banner of the People's Republic of China. They should not be guided by how much aid they had received or by any other economic considerations. His delegation therefore opposed the inclusion of the item in the agenda.

86. **Mr. Alcalay** (Venezuela) said that the proposed item should not be included in the agenda. Venezuela recognized the People's Republic of China as the sole representative of the Chinese people.

87. **Mr. Effah-Apenteng** (Ghana) said that Ghana's position on the question of the representation of China at the United Nations had been consistent and very clear. The matter had been settled once and for all by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which had recognized the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legitimate representative of China, of which Taiwan was an integral part. Some of the cardinal principles of the Charter of the United Nations would be violated if the proposal under consideration were accepted. His delegation therefore opposed its inclusion in the agenda.

88. **Mr. Camara** (Guinea) said that the General Assembly's historic resolution 2758 (XXVI) had restored the imprescriptible rights of the People's Republic of China and recognized it as the sole and legitimate representative of the Chinese people at the United Nations. Guinea, the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to have established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, appreciated the role which that country had always played in favour of the emancipation of peoples and of all just causes. His delegation therefore opposed the inclusion of the item in the agenda.

89. **Mr. Botnaru** (Republic of Moldova) said that, since the question had been resolved by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), he was opposed to its inclusion in the agenda.

90. **Mr. Ahmad** (Pakistan) said that the Committee had once again indulged itself in repetitious and wasteful debate. Year after year, the General Committee had concluded that Taiwan, which was an integral part of the People's Republic of China, had no right whatsoever to become a Member of the United Nations. There was no need to review the provisions of resolution 2758 (XXVI), as no fundamental change had occurred to warrant its reconsideration. Indeed, Pakistan believed that any attempt to reopen the issue constituted a serious violation of the Charter itself. His delegation, which strongly opposed the inclusion of the proposed item, hoped it would be the last time that the Committee would be discussing the question.

91. *The Committee decided not to recommend the inclusion of item 188 in the agenda.*

92. *Mr. Benmehidi (Algeria), Mr. Mangueira (Angola), Ms. Korneliouk (Belarus), Mr. Leslie (Belize), Mr. Tsering (Bhutan), Mr. Mourão (Brazil), Mr. Kafando (Burkina Faso), Mr. Nteturuye (Burundi), Mr. Laoteguelnodji (Chad), Mr. Streeter (Chile), Mr. Makayat-Safonesse (Congo), Mr. Moushoutas (Cyprus), Mr. Yahya (Djibouti), Mr. Richards (Dominica), Mr. Roshdy (Egypt), Mr. Meléndez-Barahona (El Salvador), Mr. Dangue Réwaka (Gabon), Mr. Stanislaus (Grenada), Mr. Camara (Guinea), Mr. Hamzehei (Islamic Republic of Iran), Mr. Aldouri (Iraq), Ms. Murnaghan (Ireland), Ms. Borzi Cornacchia (Italy), Mr. Smagulov (Kazakhstan), Mr. Al-Awdi (Kuwait), Mr. Kittikhoun (Lao People's Democratic Republic), Ms. Osode (Liberia), Ms. Thunyani (Malawi), Mr. Maïga (Mali), Mr. Relang (Marshall Islands), Mr. Gokool (Mauritius), Mr. Navarrete (Mexico), Mr. Arrouchi (Morocco), Mr. Tómas (Mozambique), Mr. Swe (Myanmar), Mr. Theron (Namibia), Mr. Osio (Nigeria), Mr. Ahmad (Pakistan), Mr. Silas (Palau), Ms. Morgan-Moss (Panama), Mr. Botnaru (Republic of Moldova), Mr. Richardson (Saint Kitts and Nevis), Ms. Joseph (Saint Lucia), Ms. Ferriai (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), Mr. Fall (Senegal), Mr. Manele (Solomon Islands), Mr. Gómez-Acebo (Spain), Mr. Atieh (Syrian Arab Republic), Mr. Ismoilov (Tajikistan), Mr. Tekaya (Tunisia), Mr. Enelesopoaga (Tuvalu), Mr. Krokhmal (Ukraine), Mr. Mwakawago (United Republic of Tanzania), Mr. Ibragimov (Uzbekistan), Mr. Alcalay (Venezuela), Mr. Mubarez (Yemen), Mr. Musambachime (Zambia) and Mr. Muchetwa (Zimbabwe) withdrew.*

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.